

CORLEY PREDICTS EVEN BIGGER THINGS NEXT YEAR

No Reason Now, Says President of Wednesday Club, Why Richmond Should Not Aspire to Grand Opera.

J. G. Corley, president of the Wednesday Club, is particularly pleased with the May Festival of this season, and regards it as the greatest triumph of the club since its founding. He thinks now that there is no reason why Richmond should not enjoy a season of opera equal to that presented in the largest cities.

The receipts and disbursements have not yet been checked up, but Mr. Corley believes that the figures will establish the May Festival as the most successful ever given.

"It is a far cry," said Mr. Corley last night, "from the humble beginning of the club, way back in 1893, to the splendid concert just closed so successfully, and even the most optimistic of the little band of thirty which made up the original membership could hardly have dreamed of such a marvelous growth as is now shown in a membership of nearly 550, linked by the kindred bond of love for music."

The increasing interest manifested year by year by our members and the music-loving public, conclusively demonstrates the fact that in music, as in everything else, Richmond demands the best, and is ready and willing to rally to the support of any person or organization that will promote it.

"The enthusiastic support accorded the efforts of the Wednesday Club in this connection has been a constant inspiration to every officer and member of the board of governors, and we are, even now, laying our plans for continuing even the splendid concert just presented, next year."

There is no earthly reason why Richmond should not enjoy a season of opera equal to that presented in New York, Chicago, Boston and other great musical centers of the country. We feel confident that nowhere would it be more appreciated, and we are confident that the loyal, liberal support of thousands of musical devotees of Virginia and her sister States would assure it of successful presentation.

"While it is too early to make public the plans of the Wednesday Club for 1915, you might tell our many members and well wishers that we are determined to exceed all previous May Festivals next year, and no effort or expense will be spared to do so. Plans are already under way, and when the announcement is made a little later, watch for a wave of interest and delight that will sweep the musical circles of the South from one end to another."

GROUP OF STARS THRILLS AUDIENCE

(Continued From First Page)

she shone radiantly last night, even though on the program with the famous Hemmel and the magnificent Amato, was a matter in which every one in the audience took a warm personal pride. In the aria, "Ah, mon Dieu, mon Dieu," she sang with a voice which was heard in every corner of the hall, and which she had given from a charming girl with a luscious voice into a matured singer, still, with the same luscious voice. Of amazing volume and profundity, her voice has a quality that no other singer can give. Her voice is like a bell, and it has been said that Mrs. Hemmel's voice is of ivory and white velvet, the latter may be fanciful, but Miss Braslow's seems to be of ivory and purple velvet, so colorful and rich is it.

THROUGH ALL HER SINGING, this quality was apparent throughout all her singing. In the aria from "La Gioconda," which she substituted for the programmed aria from "Lucia di Lammermoor," she sang with a voice which was heard in every corner of the hall, and which she had given from a charming girl with a luscious voice into a matured singer, still, with the same luscious voice. Of amazing volume and profundity, her voice has a quality that no other singer can give. Her voice is like a bell, and it has been said that Mrs. Hemmel's voice is of ivory and white velvet, the latter may be fanciful, but Miss Braslow's seems to be of ivory and purple velvet, so colorful and rich is it.

Not even excepting Tetrazzini, no one has sung "An fors a lui" here as Frieda Hemmel sang it last night, for in spite of her extraordinary vocal notes, she has had spots in her voice, and Miss Hemmel has none. "Bird-like," while, is one of the phrases she is entitled to the dignity of quotation marks, and yet it is only such a phrase, which may properly be used to describe this woman's voice. In runs, in trills, in cadenzas, it ripples and flows and floats without a quiver in sustained passages, it veritably sings itself, so pure and smooth and perfect is its legato. It is practically certain that the "Queen of the Night" aria from Mozart's "The Magic Flute" had never been heard in Richmond until last night, since the opera, by the Metropolitan, was stored for years, because its forces contained no singer who could execute its intricate passages. It is so difficult, that the "Mad Scene" is a plain song in comparison with it, and yet Miss Hemmel almost played with it last night; the fact that it is in itself easily reached by her is in itself worthy of note, but the fact that in every involved intricately traced bit of ornamentation that adorns this aria, every note is clean, distinct and a separate tone and a separate color, and the manifestations of the equipment that makes Miss Hemmel the first coloratura soprano in the world to-day.

AMATO GROWS GREATER WITH EACH SONG.

Amato—Is Amato!

He sang last night the "Air of Dapertutto" from the "Tales of Hoffmann," the "Largo al Fagotto" from "The Barber of Seville," the "Drinking Song" from Ambrosio Thomas's "Hamlet," revived by the Metropolitan when Litta Ruffo sang it, and he sang it because of the possibilities of that song, and he sang the "Prologue" from "Purcell," besides several Neapolitan street songs.

And with each he grew greater; his noble voice laughed and his face assumed the very mask of comedy as when he raced through the barber's song, or his tones thundered, sonorous and vibrant, and his eyes flashed, as when he pleaded for the actors in the prologue. A great actor and a great singer, his mighty voice hushed and murmured, or soared and rang, until the vast audience rose at him. The baritone of his day, his reappearance here will long be remembered.

The chorus, under Mr. Baker, was most effective in the "Inflammatus" from Rossini's "Sabat Mater," and was warmly applauded for its work in the songs accompanied only by the piano, while the "Venus" for unaccompanied unaccompanied was exceedingly well done, and the "Dance of the Gnomes" was bright and gay.

During the intermission, a member of the chorus presented Mr. Baker with a diamond pin from the chorus, expressing at the same time the gratitude of the club for his patient and successful efforts. It was well deserved.

And the community owes boundless thanks to President J. G. Corley, to the music committee, Norman Gull, Conway H. Gordon, G. J. Jones, W. K. Matthews and Walter C. Mercer, and to the other members of the board of governors of the Wednesday Club, John Stewart Bryan, Dr. E. N. Caltich, C. A. Canepa, J. William Friend, H. T. McInerney, J. Scott Parish, George W. Stevens, Maudie T. Spicer and the Governor of Virginia, who have given to the community in such memorable form the result of their faithful endeavor for its artistic betterment.

President of Wednesday Club



J. G. CORLEY.

Photo by Foster.

"RACKETY-PACKETY HOUSE" REHEARSALS IN PROGRESS

Children Show Wonderful Grasp of Parts Assigned Them in Reproduction of Mrs. Burnett's Play.

BY HENRY WITTE.

In a setting of overturned chairs and with old wooden horses to mark the entrances, the rehearsals at Murphy's Hotel for the "Racketty-Packetty House" go daily forward under the direction of Clinton Hamilton. Nearly three score little girls and some boys of about 10 to 12 years of age are taking part in this adorable play, and the children enter most heartily into the spirit of each performance. In the warm, fertile mind of each child the stage is already set with the two doll houses, the "Duchess" literally sweeps in upon the scene of her daughter's birthday in a short white frock and a tangle of auburn curls about her eyes, quite as if she were gowned in stiff brocade and lace. Children come and go, with nursemaids and doting parents in attendance, and over and over again the acts are called by Mr. Hamilton. From the time that the bearers, bringing the imaginary new doll house down right center, appear, your interest is caught and held at once. Lady Patricia arrives at "Racketty-Packetty House" done quite properly in a pasteboard box and wrapped becomingly in layers of pink tissue paper. Clutching a parasol, snatched from a servant's fingers of another child, little Florence Pizini, as Lady Patsy, makes a captivating leading lady. She nods the big pink bows on her head and the most outrageous and grown-up fashion with her. One of the three professional children here to take part in the play, Dorothy, Marjorie and Klondike Brown—the three members of the original company in New York—play with an abandon and nonchalance that is scarcely believable.

All of the children have a quaint, old-fashioned air, and their manners that is simply irresistible, and the boy of dear little "green-workers" who "pushed the footman and pulled and dragged him to the wrong door," are adorable. They perform with a baby unconcern of any on-lookers that is remarkable. Tiny frantic scraps among the "green-workers" are constantly occurring; little boys in scarlet breeches and the newest thing in Oliver Twist suits are more than once found pulling the curls and pinching the cheeks of future society belles. All the while Mr. Hamilton goes on with an Indian patience and smoothness toward the little fellows, and the children have thrown their whole hearts and souls into the part.

There is nothing amateurish about any of it. In fact, it is remarkably free from anything that in the least suggests a possibility of being anything but a possibility. It is enough to glimpse the blase little yawns of the leading children and watch the grace and easy movements of Dorothy Brown as Irene Cross-section to see that the children have thrown their whole hearts and souls into the part.

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FRED STERRY . . . Managing Director

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NOT A VOTING QUORUM

New Plan of Financing of Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company Is Deferred.

Because of the lack of a voting attendance at a meeting held at a special meeting of the stockholders of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company, held in New York yesterday on a proposition to authorize the increase of 50,000 shares of preferred stock and the issue of \$1,000,000 a per cent debentures.

The stock represented at the meeting in person and by proxy held 50,000 shares of preferred stock, or 12 per cent of the amount authorized, and the company's common stock outstanding. A vote of two-thirds of both the preferred and common stock is necessary to authorize an increase of stock, and the attendance of common stock, in person or by proxy was not sufficient to carry out the project. It is expected that an adjourned meeting will be held when the proposed new financing will be further considered.

Aunt Sally's Advice To Beauty Seekers

Lydia says: "I've tried most everything for my freckles, but can't lose them. What do you suggest?" See answer to "Stella." The treatment suggested by Lydia is to fall in any case of freckles or other cutaneous blemish.

P. J. K. asks: "Is there anything better than massage to remove wrinkles?" Too much massage may aggravate a wrinkle condition, leading to soften and loosen the tissue. I advise you to use cream, and an astringent lotion made by dissolving an ounce of powdered salicylic acid in a half pint of witch hazel. This is remarkably effective.

Stella writes: "My complexion is horribly muddy. What shall I do for it?" Get a ounce of mercurized wax at your druggist's. Apply this night and wash off with cream, washing it off morning. This will cause the offensive cuticle gradually to make way, by a process of gentle absorption, for the clear, velvety healthy skin underneath. Women's Health, Advertisement.

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Rev. Eugene C. Caldwell, D. D., of North Carolina, will be installed in the chair of Hebrew at the Union Theological Seminary to-day, and the formal transfer of Rev. Thomas Cary Johnson, D. D., as professor of theology, and Rev. W. L. Lingle, D. D., as professor of church history, will be consummated. The board of trustees met at the seminary yesterday and definitely decided upon these changes, besides transacting other business of a routine nature.

To-day will be devoted almost entirely to the senior class. Rev. John M. Rose, D. D., of Laurinburg, N. C., will deliver the annual address to the graduates, and George W. Watts, president of the board of trustees, will present them with their diplomas. A photograph of the graduating class will be presented the seminary by Stanley White, of Texas, and will be accepted by Rev. W. W. Moore, D. D., on behalf of the institution.

One of the most interesting features of the day's program will be the delivery of the Hoge Scholarship to Benjamin Rice Lacy, of Davidson, N. C. The Hoge Scholarship is considered quite an honor, and has been held by a former year by Dr. Caldwell, who returns to the seminary as professor of Hebrew. Dr. Caldwell was educated at the seminary and at Hampden-Sidney College.

The principal feature of yesterday's

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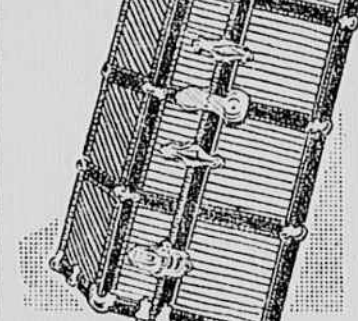
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